



New documents on political and social issues

February 2006

MEETING THE CHALLENGE OF A CHANGING WORLD: STRENGTHENING EDUCATION FOR THE 21st CENTURY

U.S. Department of Education, February 2006

<http://www.ed.gov/about/inits/ed/competitiveness/strengthening/strengthening.pdf>

President Bush's 2006 education agenda, the American Competitiveness Initiative, aims to strengthen innovation and education in the U.S. by improving mathematics and science education, foreign language studies, and high schools.

ONE-FIFTH OF AMERICA: A COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE TO AMERICA'S FIRST SUBURBS

The Brookings Institution, February 2006

http://www.brook.edu/metro/pubs/20060215_FirstSuburbs.pdf

Neither fully urban nor completely suburban, America's older, inner-ring, "first" suburbs have a unique set of challenges—such as concentrations of elderly and immigrant populations as well as outmoded housing and commercial buildings—very different from those of the center city and fast growing newer places. Yet first suburbs exist in a policy blindspot with little in the way of state or federal tools to help them adapt to their new realities and secure a role as competitive and quality communities. This paper defines first suburbs throughout the nation, examines their similarities and differences, and, finally, sets out a policy agenda tailored specifically to these distinctive places.

A FAILURE OF INITIATIVE: THE FINAL REPORT OF THE SELECT BIPARTISAN COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE THE PREPARATION FOR AND THE RESPONSE TO HURRICANE KATRINA

U.S. Congress, February 15, 2006

<http://katrina.house.gov>

According to the legislation creating it, the Select Committee is charged with conducting "a full and complete investigation and study and to report its findings to the House not later than February 15, 2006, regarding-- (1) the development, coordination, and execution by local, State, and Federal authorities of emergency response plans and other activities in preparation for Hurricane Katrina; and (2) the local, State, and Federal government response to Hurricane Katrina."

THE FEDERAL RESPONSE TO HURRICANE KATRINA: LESSONS LEARNED

The White House, February 2006

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/reports/katrina-lessons-learned.pdf>

The Federal Response to Hurricane Katrina: Lessons Learned. The product of an extensive review, led by the President's Homeland Security Advisor Fran Townsend, the Report identifies deficiencies in the Federal government's response and lays the groundwork for transforming how the Nation - from every level of government, to the private sector, to individual citizens and communities - pursues a real and lasting vision of emergency preparedness and response.